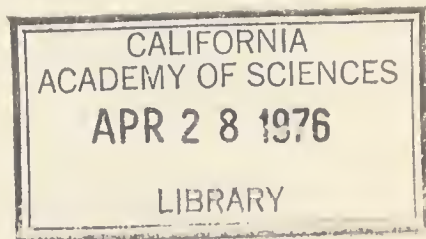


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the gull



Volume 58

Berkeley, Calif.

May 1976

Number 5

A DIFFERENT KIND OF MEETING



If you have never attended a GGAS general membership meeting now is a good time to start. (If you are one of the regulars don't miss this one.)

On Thursday, May 27th there will be several firsts: the first GGAS meeting at the new Environmental Center in Tilden Regional Park, a chance to picnic with fellow members if you come early and bring your supper, and a choice of nature walks before the program.

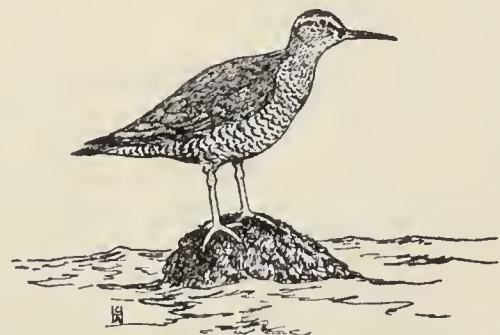
Marie Mans and Barry Spitz will lead birders around Jewel Lake and Dick Anderson will share his botanical knowledge on a wildflower walk.

At 7:30 p.m. two films will be presented by the Conservation Committee: one is a National Audubon Society film about marshes and mudflats; the other, recommended by Audubon, "The Last Days of the Dolphins?", is narrated by Dick Cavett from the deck of a tuna fishing boat. This is a factual, two-sided presentation of the tuna/porpoise story.

This meeting is an opportunity to talk with your Conservation Committee members and to give them your suggestions as to what GGAS should or should not do about the many environmental concerns.

Plan a picnic supper, get out your walking shoes and meet in Tilden Park on Thursday, May 27th.

Field Trips Calendar



If you want riders or need a ride, call Connie Holmes in San Francisco (775-7221 Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings only), or Marian Craig in the East Bay (845-5036 any time between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.).

Bring lunch on all trips unless otherwise indicated.

Saturday, Sunday, May 1 & 2 — Pinnacles National Monument camping trip. Details in *April Gull*. Leader: Warren Larson (525-9149).

Sunday, May 2 — Strawberry Canyon. Details in *April Gull*. Leader: Jack Reinoehl (525-0906).

Wednesday, May 5 — Mt. Diablo. Details in *April Gull*. Leader: Jean Richmond (837-2843).

Thursday, May 6 — Mini-trip for seniors (others welcome) to the **Presidio of San Francisco** to see Hooded Orioles. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at parking lot in main Muni bus station inside Presidio at Lincoln Blvd. and Anza (Muni 45, 28 and 43). Transportation can be provided from this point for those who need it. Trip ends at 11:00 a.m. Picnic tables nearby — lunch optional. Leader: Donna Dittmann (468-2688).

Saturday, May 8 — Mt. Diablo. Details in *April Gull*. Leader: Ned Boyajian (937-2243).

Sunday, May 9 — Mines Road from Livermore to Patterson. Details in *April Gull*. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720, Livermore).

Saturday, May 15 — Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park. A 4 or 5 mile walk in eastern Sonoma County for Mountain Quail and a wide variety of breeding birds. From Santa Rosa drive east toward Sonoma on Hwy. 12. "Golden Bear Lodge" sign marks the turn-off. Drive to end of road. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the day use parking lot. Leader: Mike Parmeter (707-255-6757).

Sunday, May 16 — Capay Cemetery and Woodland Sugar Ponds in the Sacramento Valley for Blue Grosbeaks, Black Terns, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and possibly migrant warblers. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at intersection of Hwys. 16 and 505 (½ mile east of Madison). Take Interstate 80, the 505 turnoff is just beyond Vacaville. 1½ hours driving time from San Francisco. Bring scopes and lunch. Leader: Florence Bennett (933-3781).

Saturday, May 22 — Breeding birds of Inverness Ridge. Meet at **Five Brooks Stables** parking area (about five miles southeast of Olema on Hwy. 1, well-marked with signs) at **7:30 a.m.** (allow 1½ hours driving time from Berkeley). We will hike up the east slope of Inverness Ridge and make a four-to six-mile loop through riparian woodlands, coniferous

forest, and a lot of "edge" habitat. Special attention will be given to bird songs and calls; among the species we should see and/or hear are Pileated Woodpecker, three or four kinds of flycatcher, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hutton's and Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned, Hermit, and Wilson's Warblers, Purple Finch, and Chipping Sparrow. Leader: Nick Story (527-0210).

Sunday, May 23 — Vedanta Society Estate, Marin County. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters, near Olema. We will then go in caravan to the area. Many of the birds mentioned for the May 22 trip may be found here — though the walking will be easier, about 3 miles. Leader: Pat Triggs (664-8502).

Saturday, May 29 — Explore the north coast and the mouth of the Russian River, and join us for early dinner at Occidental. Vauxs' Swifts and Ospreys have nested in this area. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the intersection of Hwy. 116 and Cazadero Road, about 7 miles west of Guerneville. Take 101 north to Santa Rosa, then Hwy. 12 and 116 west. About 1½ hours driving time from San Francisco. Bring light lunch. Leader: Barry Spitz (454-2769, Marin).

Sunday, May 30 — A morning in Tilden Park to look for nesting birds around Jewel Lake and along Wildcat Creek. We are sure to see and hear Swainson's Thrush and hope to find MacGillivray's Warbler. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** at the west entrance booth of the UC Berkeley campus (bus stop) or at **8:00 a.m.** at the Tilden Nature Area parking lot. Trip ends at noon, but you may want to bring lunch for a picnic. Leader: Bob O'Brien (526-8241).

June 5-6 — The Yosemite bus (detailed in March *Gull*) is full and all cabin reservations taken. There will be another bus trip to the Sierra (Echo Lake near South Lake Tahoe) on July 23, 24, 25. Watch June *Gull* for details.

Saturday & Sunday, June 12 & 13 — Yuba Pass and vicinity to enjoy the birds of mountains, sagebrush, and marshes. This year we will include a trip along Redrock Road near the Nevada border to look for Pinyon Jays and Black-throated Sparrows. From Truckee on Interstate 80 take Hwy. 89 north; eight miles north of Sierraville take Hwy. 49 west to Yuba Pass Summit (marker) where we will meet between **9 and 10 a.m. on Saturday.** On **Sunday** meet at **6:30 a.m.** at the intersection of Hwys. 49 and 89 east of the Summit. Good camps are Chapman Creek on Hwy. 49, eight miles west of the Summit; Cottonwood Creek on Hwy. 89, three miles south of Sierraville (good for overnight stay if you drive up Friday evening), and possibly a new camp right at Yuba Pass. Motels: Canyon Ranch in Sierraville (916-994-3340), or Sierra Chalet (916-289-3483), Buttes Motel (916-862-1151) all in Sierra City. Leaders: Beth Snyder (841-1747) and Marie Mans (284-7681).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

PATCHES

Those beautiful GGAS sleeve or hat patches you have been seeing recently were ordered in limited numbers only. If you have been meaning to get one (or two) please send \$1.50 in a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the GGAS office. This money supports the conservation efforts of this society.

ANNUAL DINNER

Reserve Thursday, June 10th for the annual dinner and installation of officers at the Unitarian Church, S.F. Reservations at \$5 per person should be received at the GGAS office no later than June 3rd. See June *Gull* for details.

March Observations

March has traditionally been the slowest month in terms of rarities, and this year was no exception. Most of the unusual birds around were winterers lingering on. But March does bring the first of spring migrants and it is nice to see old friends again. Most of the swallows had arrived in force, and by the end of the month Western Flycatchers and Northern Orioles had appeared, while in the Central Valley Western Kingbirds and Swainson's Hawks were present. The Costa's Hummingbird in Del Puerto Canyon presented itself March 22. Shorebirds were molting into spring plumage and forgotten songs again filled the air. March, then, is a month to reacquaint oneself with our breeding birds, perhaps work on a few county lists, and anticipate the spring.

In Berkeley, the **Yellow-billed Loon** present since January 25 at the marina was last reported March 13 (GMcC, DR). It's pleasant to have the **Blue-winged Teal** come through: on March 21 one was at Pescadero (NK). A second male **European Wigeon** was discovered in Golden Gate Park, but the two birds remained on separate lakes all month (mob); a female was carefully identified on Bolinas Lagoon March 6 (J&SL *et al.*) The two **Oldsquaws** at Princeton remained all month (mob). Four **Marbled Godwits** were spotted along Santa Fe Grade, Merced County (JM *et al.*); they are rare spring migrants inland. Twenty **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Joice Island March 14 was a rather high count (BG). Two **Rock Sandpipers** were at their regular wintering location on Bodega Head March 11 (BF) but only one was found March 16 (LM); another individual joined the previously discovered Rock Sandpiper March 14 at Pebble Beach, north of Pigeon Point, San Mateo County, where they were south of their usual wintering grounds (GMcC, DR). The **Ground Dove** at Half Moon Bay, incredible in Northern California, was still present March 14 (GMcC, DR). **Roadrunners** are quite scarce along the Coast Ranges, known from only a few locations. One of these is milepost 6.59 along Mines Road south-east of Livermore, where two were seen March 29 (AE *et al.*) Though **Pygmy Owls** are resident throughout our area, they are not often reported near the Bay Cities. However, one was calling near Lake Merced, San

Francisco, March 1-8 (DD, WP) and two were seen at Sunol Regional Park March 7 (B&LJ). Likewise, **Spotted Owls** are a treat to see. In their population metropolis at Muir Woods, where the favorite roosts are known, a pair was viewed leisurely March 21 and 24 (A&WG, EC *et al.*) Two **Dippers** were still present at Sunol Regional Park March 7 (B&LJ). Our local wintering **Brown Thrasher** continued to frequent an Oakland feeder all month (GM *et al.*), and the **Townsend's Solitaire** was resighted at Monticello Dam March 13 (JM *et al.*) The fantastic **Cape May Warbler**, the first winter record in Northern California, was still in Santa Cruz through at least March 14 (*fide* DR). A male **American Redstart** wintered north of Sebastopol, Sonoma County and it was seen, along with a wintering **Hermit Warbler**, until March 29 (LP, JM *et al.*) A flock of 125 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** along Jersey Island Road, Contra Costa County, was thought to be unusual in that area (JM, DE). Two **Red Crossbills** in Golden Gate Park March 24 were in an area in which they are rare residents and have nested, but are infrequently seen (NK); another was heard calling near the north end of the Sky Trail on Inverness Ridge, March 27 (NS, MS). The two **Tree Sparrows** near Sears Point, Sonoma County, were found again through March 13 (GMcC, DR). While **White-throated Sparrows** are regular winterers in our area in small numbers, they are the most likely "rare" birds to show up in backyards and bring excitement to those who are unable to travel more widely in search of the unusual. For this reason they continue to be of interest, but each month's report does not, of course nearly cover their status. March reports were from San Anselmo March 7 (BS, PW), San Francisco March 19 (SS), and Audubon Canyon Ranch March 26 (RM).

Observers: Eric Caine, Donna Dittmann, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, Bud Fry, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Bob Gill, Bob Johnsen, Lenore Johnsen, Nils Kjellen, John Luther, Susanne Luther, Robin May, Gwen Mayne, Guy McCaskie, Joe Morlan, Wayne Palsson, Les Perry, Don Roberson, Steve Snyder, Barry Spitz, Meryl Stewart, Nick Story, Peter White, many observers (mob).

—DON ROBERSON, *Observations Editor*
2244 Encinal Ave., No. 5
Alameda, Calif. 94501 (865-2462)

Conservation

THE BABY HARP SEAL SLAUGHTER received much publicity this year because of the confrontation of Project Greenpeace volunteers and the sealers on the ice packs off of the coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland. Conservationists have protested about the savage brutality of these hunts for years; now scientists confirm that if this killing continues the Harp Seals are doomed to extinction. It is still possible to add your voice to the protest by writing to:

The Norwegian Ambassador
Hon. S. Charles Sommerfelt
3401 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20007

If you support the efforts of Project Greenpeace, a Canadian organization, and feel that Canada should protect the seals off its coast, write to:

The Hon. Pierre Trudeau
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

SEA OTTERS AGAIN FACE CONTROLS. For the second time around, the California Department of Fish and Game is petitioning the Department of the Interior for a waiver of the moratorium on the taking of Sea Otters imposed by the Marine Mammals Act of 1972. In 1974 the Dept. of Fish and Game asked that control of the otters be returned to the state of California so that Fish and Game could "manage" them. This plan which included restriction of the otter's range was turned down by the Dept. of the Interior. In late 1975 a new plan was formulated by Fish and Game. This plan also includes range restriction, manipulation of the animals and a new feature known as "culling". This is supposed to protect the shellfish, primarily abalone, which the Dept. claims the otters are destroying.

Scientific studies show that the Sea Otter is a "key species", essential to the integrity and stability of the ecosystem. For thousands of years the otters lived in balance with abalone, crab, sea urchins and Indians all along the Pacific coast. Now they must compete for their food with ever-increasing numbers of sport divers and commercial abalone fishermen who put great pressure on the Dept. of Fish and Game to control the otters.

Much adverse inflammatory publicity prejudicial to the otters has been released by Fish and Game personnel. This has incited violent anti-otter letters in the Central Coast area newspapers. The otters have become endangered by the release of such news.

These animals so newly back from near extinction still face a threat to their existence from oil spills and waters polluted by toxic wastes which drain into the sea.

On the front page of the *Wall Street Journal* for January 2, 1976 is an interesting article about soaring abalone prices, instances of illegal gathering and the fierce competition of the divers for these shellfish. This presents another view of the controversy in which the Sea Otter has been made a scapegoat.

Address your opinions to:

Charles Fullerton
Dir. Cal. Fish & Game
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, Ca 95814

John Twiss
Executive Director
Marine Mammals Comm.
1625 Eye Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

REMEMBER MAY 27 (see front page).

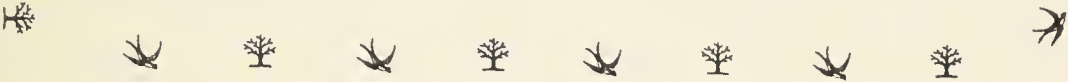
—SHIRLEY TAYLOR, *Conservation Editor*

In Memoriam



LEONARD MACHLIS

It is with profound sadness and a deep sense of loss that this society acknowledges the death of LEONARD MACHLIS on March 26, 1976. Len was our finance committce chairman during the two crucial years of financial reorganization. He gave unstintingly of his time and experience. He softened the hard lessons we had to learn with wit and humor and gave us the strength to act. He will be greatly missed.



Gifts and Bequests

For Audubon Canyon Ranch

In memory of:

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Leonard Machlis | Golden Gate Audubon Society |
| | Charlotte & Jim Clayton |
| | Lenore & Bob Johnsen |
| | Ida E. Logan |
| | Betty & Walter Olds |
| | Dr. & Mrs. Harold Rosegay |
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| | T. I. F. O. |

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| Arthur Riley | Ruth & Ralph Thrasher |
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In honor of:

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| Blanche Vranra | Ruth Voss |
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For GGAS

In honor of:

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| Elsie B. Roemer | Eleanor Hebard |
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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or if unspecified, at the discretion of the Board. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is co-sponsor. Please send your gift in the form, of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. to Mrs. Robert C. Johnsen, Corresponding Secretary, 4 Del Valle, Orinda, CA 94563. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations, and bequests will be acknowledged in *THE GULL*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society, by the Corresponding Secretary.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

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Above are all members of the Board of Directors.

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Bird Observations, Don Roberson (865-2462)

Northern Calif. Rare Bird Alert, Joe Morlan (654-1358)

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2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705. It will be forwarded.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$15 per year (individual); \$18 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks (no cash) payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$3 per year; single issues 30¢. High school and college student membership \$7 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon Society in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.